



75 Main Street • Hickory, PA • 15340 • 724-356-2211 • FAX: 724-356-4398

December 31, 2017

Matthew S. DelNero
Wireline Competition Bureau Chief
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet, GN Docket No. 14-28; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92

Dear Mr. DelNero:

Pursuant to the Federal Communication Commission's *Open Internet Order*¹, Hickory Telephone Company ("Hickory") hereby notifies the Bureau of its intention to cease offering its broadband Internet transmission service as a separate component of its broadband Internet access service effective March 1, 2018. As such, the transmission component will only be provided on a private carriage basis as an input to the provision of mass market broadband Internet access service.

The FCC made clear in the *Rate-of-Return Connect American Fund Order*² as well as the *Clarification Order*³ that a rate-of-return carrier could make the offering described above, and thus the revenues associated with the broadband Internet access transmission would no longer be subject to the federal universal service fund assessment pursuant to FCC Form 499-A.

This notice is effective sixty (60) days from the date of this letter, March 1, 2018, unless withdrawn or extended prior to that time.

As per the attached Certificate of Service, Hickory provided a copy of this notice to the Special Assistant for Telecommunications of the Department of Defense, the Governor of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Jeffers", is written over a horizontal line.

Brian Jeffers
Treasurer / CEO

¹ *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 14-28, Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 5601, ¶ 460 & n. 1378 (2015).

² *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al., Report & Order, Order & Order on Reconsideration & Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 16-33, ¶ 194, n. 428 (rel. Mar. 30, 2016).

³ *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al., Order DA 16-661, ¶ 25 (WCB, rel. Jun. 15, 2016) (citing the *Open Internet Order*).



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notification of Discontinuance of Common Carrier Wireline Broadband Internet Access Service was serviced this 31st day of December, 2017, by sending via certified first class mail return receipt requested true and direct copies of, postage prepaid, to the following persons:

Secretary of Defense
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Governor Tom Wolf's Office
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Public Utility Commission
State of Pennsylvania
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Julie Shastri, Manager Member Service
Eastern Region
National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA)
80 South Jefferson Road
Whippany, NJ 07981